

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Catoctin Mountain Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CATO

Year: 2007

**Vision Statement**

Catoctin Mountain Park's vegetation and wildlife populations in the eastern deciduous forest are fully inventoried and monitored to assure ecosystem health. Outstanding scenic beauty at the transition of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont geologic provinces is protected through improved air quality, burial of utilities, and the preservation of geologic processes. The waters of the park contribute to the attainment of the water resource values for the Monocacy, Potomac, and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

Visitors from nearby metropolitan areas and across the nation fully plan park visits in advance of arrival. Visitors reflect the full range of diverse populations and the American public understands the significance of the park and its natural and cultural resources. Visitors engage in diverse recreational experiences that do not exceed established use capacities nor impair resource values. Since Catoctin includes the Presidential Retreat, Camp David, the park should be a place where international leaders convene to conduct international diplomacy in a restful and relaxing atmosphere.

Cultural resources are fully inventoried and monitored to assure complete protection through professional treatment programs. All historic structures are maintained according to national, professional, and industry standards. Modern facilities are sustainable in design and construction and energy efficient in use.

Catoctin has specific enabling legislation and a unit designation that fully reflects its role as a unit of the National Park System and its support mission to the Presidential Retreat. The public is afforded and avails itself of civic engagement opportunities to discuss park operational and management needs through multiple communication pathways.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

J. Mel Poole, Superintendent, Catoctin Mountain Park

Site: CATO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Currently each historic cabin will be rehabilitated once in every 68 years. If we can reduce this time period we will prove the park's Facility Condition Index.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

We will utilize volunteers and partner with other groups to restore native species by removing invasive species.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

All park cultural resources will be fully inventoried and documented by appropriate professionals.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Catoctin will find new ways to expand and enhance its Junior Ranger program

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

**ENVIRONMENT**

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Increase the use of energy efficient products such as compact fluorescent bulbs, occupancy sensors. Greenstar computers and appliances.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue to implement the findings of the Environmental Management Systems Plan and environmental audits.

Bury overhead utilities to enhance visual quality and reduce power outages due to storms and motor vehicle accidents.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

**ENVIRONMENT**

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Catoctin will continue to install pervious paving surfaces and increase the use of rain barrels and other on-site detention systems to reduce non-point source pollution.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Catoctin will purchase additional hybrid vehicles for its fleet and require the use of biobased lubricants and hydraulic fluids.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

Increase the use of energy efficient products such as compact fluorescent bulbs, occupancy sensors. Greenstar computers and appliances to achieve additional energy conservation.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

**ENVIRONMENT**

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Achieve enhanced water quality and headwaters protection by working with federal, state, local, non-profit and private partners in local watershed alliance for the Monocacy River.

Work with local and state tourism officials to develop tourism programs that seek to identify significant natural and cultural resources and model appropriate behaviors.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Continue to utilize partners such as the Boy Scouts and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club to develop accessible facilities and trails for people with disabilities.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Gain National Recreation Trail designation for the Catoctin Trail by enlisting the support of local land owners and partners.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase the number of Eagle Scout and other youth group projects performed annually. Projects will be selected and planned by the youth with an NPS advisor assigned.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Secure a unit designation for Catoctin Mountain Park that has "national" in the title eg. (National Recreation Area or National Monument). County and state governments are already in support of this measure.

Work with local, state, and regional tourism groups (such as the Journey through Hallowed Ground). Develop tourism products that are designed to attract new visitor groups to the park.

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Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Currently several of the Resource Education staff have law enforcement duties that limit their time spent on interpretive programs. Catoctin will establish a Resource Education Branch that is focused completely on interpretive programs and planning.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

The park will strengthen its IT capabilities to allow greater use of the Internet for park information and reservations.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Catoctin will develop podcasts and other emerging technologies to provide additional ways to deliver park messages to current and new users.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Create institutional memory with high transparency for the next generation of park staff by completing a new Foundation Document for Planning and Management and formulating the first General Management Plan for the park.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Develop a shared Safety Officer position with Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park to reduce lost time incidents and serious visitor injuries.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CATO

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

Establish a Partnerships and Volunteer Coordinator position to manage all philanthropic activities and increase volunteer involvement.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS